

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*The Zoological Record for 1880* (vol. xvii.).

Edited by E. C. RYE. London: 1881.

*Zoologischer Jahresbericht für 1880.*

Redigirt von Prof. J. VICT. CARUS. Leipzig: 1881.

It is with very great satisfaction that we are able to report that the two zoological records (proper) for the year 1880 appeared before the end of the year 1881. We shall not here take any notice of the reports which appear as part of the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte;' for they have acquired an antiquarian right to appear whensoever they please. Rivalry has shown itself to be so far advantageous that the early appearance of what we will call the Naples 'Record' for 1879 has given a new, and a needed, impetus to the more speedy publication of the volume which appears under the auspices of the Zoological Record Association.

When we look in a broad way at what is to be expected from an effort of this kind, the first question we have to ask ourselves is as to the scope of such a work; from a theoretical point of view, we expect anatomical, embryological, and palæontological studies to be no less recognized than the work of the descriptive and systematic zoologist. When we examine it from a practical point of view we find that, in addition to these requirements, we have to demand compendiousness, facility of reference, and peculiar attention to such points as might easily escape a worker in a narrow groove. It is not so necessary to refer in detail to Prof. Huxley's work on the gills of crayfish as to an obscure notice of rare species in a journal with a limited circulation: no student of carcinology can fail to hear of the one; but it is far from all that will, from more general sources, become acquainted with the existence of a paper by Mr. Haswell on some new Amphipods from Australia and Tasmania. Compendiousness is hardly to be associated with a detailed statement of every fossil fish or coral: and that work is more particularly undertaken by the 'Geological Record.' Thus, then, we find that the English 'Record,' of which the 17th volume has now appeared, and which has been under the care of such practised and practical workers as Dr. Günther, Prof. Newton, and Mr. Rye, has dealt with anatomical and palæontological study in much less detail than with the ever-growing and overpowering force of the descriptions of new forms. On the other hand, the Naples 'Record' takes all zoology for its province. As it has thus put itself into rivalry with a publication which had learnt its true position, and had been, in some departments, served for many years by the same experienced hands, let us see how it has justified its boldness. Last year we refrained from criticism from the *reverentia que debetur pueris*; but